

B.A. Bulletin

August 2000

Important Health Benefits News for Benefits Administrators

Upcoming Events

AUG

Aug. 14 ♦ Long-term care employee and retiree meetings resume in Annandale

Aug. 15 ♦ Flexible Benefits program questionnaire available on DHRM web site through Sept. 30

Aug. 25 ♦ Carrier proposals due on 2001 health plans

SEPT

Sept. 1 ♦ Intent to award announcement expected on 2001 health plans

Sept. 6 ♦ Final long-term care enrollment meetings held in Richmond at VCU

OCT

Oct. 25 ♦ Tentative date for mailing Spotlight newsletter, Flexible Benefits annual enrollment issue

Published by the Office of Health Benefits,
Virginia Department of Human Resource
Management

Proposals Due Soon on 2001 Health Plans

Proposals are due on Aug. 25 in response to a request for proposals (RFP) published in July for 2001 health plans and administrative services. The RFP could result in additional health plans beginning in July of 2001, and also in more plan types offered by health carriers who now participate in the State Health Benefits Program. An announcement on intent to award contracts is expected in September.

External Review for Regional Plans

The State Corporation Commission's Bureau of Insurance now has a procedure for external review of appeals accepted from state employees enrolled in the Commonwealth's regional health plans. Here's how the process works:

♣ State employees enrolled in the regional plans may appeal adverse plan decisions to the Bureau after exhausting appeals internally with their health plan. (Appeals on eligibility are filed with DHRM).

♣ Once internal plan appeals are exhausted, members may file for an external review of coverage denied as not being medically necessary or as experimental/investigative. All appeals must be filed within 30 days of the final plan decision to deny coverage, and the claim must exceed \$300 to be eligible for appeal.

♣ If the appeal is accepted, an independent health care review organization, not affiliated with the member's health plan, will be asked to conduct a review of the appeal.

♣ A written recommendation will be made to the Commissioner of Insurance, who will issue a written ruling. The ruling is binding, with no opportunity for appeal.

♣ Additional information: (804) 371-9032 in Richmond or toll-free at (877) 310-6560, also www.state.va.us/scc.



Magellan To Issue Handbooks and Cards

Employees enrolled in Key Advantage and Cost Alliance will be receiving Magellan Behavioral Health Member Handbooks and separate wallet cards showing the 1-800-775-5138 number to call for services. This is an effort to provide more information on the benefits offered for mental illness and substance abuse services, and more details on the employee assistance program provided under the statewide plans. A distribution schedule is being developed. Stay tuned!

Long-Term Care Meetings Continue Through September

Aug. 14	Annandale
Aug. 15	Harrisonburg
Aug. 17	Abingdon
Aug. 29	Portsmouth
Aug. 31	Williamsburg
Sept. 1	Charlottesville
Sept. 6	Richmond

Retiree enrollment meetings are at 2:00 p.m., and employee meetings at 4:00 p.m. Specific locations are listed on the DHRM web site at www.dhrm.state.va.us/hbenefit.htm.

Coming Soon!
**Benefits Administrator
Plan Contact List**